



Articles & Features

April 22, 2010

Youth Experience Working at Medical Center

Story and Photos by Alexis Deffner & Cali Coulthard

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — The Martinsburg Veteran Affairs Medical Center (MVAMC) hosted a “Take Your Child to Work Day” on April 22 for 25 sons and daughters of staff.

“Our event was modeled after the national Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Foundation program,” said Medical Center Director Ann Brown. “The event gave youth an opportunity to see what their parents really do at work all day and also introduced them to a variety of possibilities as they think about their futures.”

This national, public education program connects what children learn at school with the actual working world. Event Coordinator and Executive Assistant to the Director Kim Waggoner said, “When we planned this, we thought about what the kids would like to see – our schedule covered all aspects of the medical center. I really enjoyed spending the day with them.”

The program was more than just shadowing their parent for the day. The program included observing a HAZMAT drill, a tour of the fire department, nutrition and food services, lunch with the director, and handing out flowers to Veterans in the Community Living Center. “My favorite part was visiting with the Veterans,” said Elizabeth Clever, daughter of Medical Center Librarian Shannon Clever.

Additionally the schedule included a



On April 22, the MVAMC hosted the 2010 Take Your Child to Work Day. Photo: VA/Alexis Deffner

tour of the surgical unit. Asked what the most interesting thing she learned today, Sarah Swailes, daughter of James Swailes from FMS said, “I knew before that OR rooms were cold, but didn’t know why. Now I know that it’s to prevent bacteria from growing.”

Sam Hartiens, son of clinical psychologist Jonathan Hartiens from rehabilitation medicine summed up what many of the youth said, “Based on what I learned here today, I might want to work here one day. I liked meeting the Veterans.”

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Photos: VA/Cali Coulthard/Alexis Deffner



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